

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 40 are currently pending in the application.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of March 11, 2005.

Preliminary Amendment

Applicants note the filing of a Preliminary Amendment on May 13, 2004, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed to have been entered in the Office file, Applicants will provide a true copy to the Examiner.

Claim Objections

Claims 6, 12, 19, 26, 32 and 39 are objected to due to informalities in the claim language. Appropriate correction has been made.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

Claims 1 through 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth. Claims 1, 4, 15, 21, and 35 have been amended to comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Therefore, presently amended claims 1 through 40 are allowable under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patents 6,458,663 and 6,699,743

Claims 1 through 40 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 20 of U.S. Patent 6,458,663 and claims 1 through 15 of U.S. Patent 6,699,743. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing terminal

disclaimers to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimers should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Attached are the terminal disclaimers and accompanying fee.

Applicants submit that claims 1 through 40 are clearly allowable.

Applicants request the allowance of claims 1 through 40 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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